

Steamboat Springs Police Facility Committee

April 6, 2015

Public Comments

First, as a resident of the city, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee for volunteering to serve and for giving their time, their energy and especially their reputations to this effort. This is a very important project for the city and all residents should appreciate your willingness to guide it through to successful completion.

It is with respect to that last issue, your personal reputations that causes me to be here this morning making these comments. I have been away from Steamboat Springs and limited to the Internet version of the newspaper for information on the committee and its activities. While I recognize that there are limits to what is in the newspaper versus say what happens in a meeting of some length, comments by several committee members reported in last week's newspaper could be misinterpreted as fundamental disagreements between committee members* rather than perhaps simply observations based on the information available thus far. And with the somewhat checkered past history of the police station project (not quite a sack of snakes as one City Council person has said with respect to another city issue), I think you can see that it would be easy for the committee to be whipsawed by persons with their own agendas. For this reason, I believe it is in the interest of the committee and its individual members to have an agreed upon communications strategy with regular reports that make clear the current status of committee deliberations and the foreseen next steps. The reported committee members comments, diverge as they do, seem to indicate a fundamental difference among committee members on the basic assumptions for this project, which leads me to my next issue.

That is, there does not appear to be a clear, step-wise process that the committee is following, and as the starting point, an agreed upon set of basic assumptions for your work. I would assume that the City has a list of assumptions that were developed as the original project began, likely based upon its perception of the basic opportunity presented by a new police station.** My final suggestion then is that the committee develop a step-

wise process for its work, beginning with a statement of how it sees the opportunity and its assessment of the basic starting assumptions—and share those with the community at the earliest possible time. I am sure several members of the committee as well as City Council members are aware of simple, straightforward framing exercises which you can use to show to the community what is included in the project, what is definitely not in, and what may be on the frame. I am sure also, that those same persons know simple project management tools that can be the basis for your work as well as communication with the community as the work proceeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments.

*It was reported that one committee member was surprised at how much opportunity there was for renovation, use of wasted space, while another was reported as having said a new police station is definitely needed.

**An opportunity might be expressed, for example, as "Freeing up Yampa Street, for further economic development while moving critical city services to less congested areas."